

Application No.: 10/665,914
Dated: September 21, 2005
Amendment

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 and 11 have been amended, support for which may be found in applicants' claims 4 and 13, as originally filed, and elsewhere within applicants' specification. Claims 4 and 13 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 through 3, 5 through 6, 8, 10 through 12, 14, 15, 17 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Loc et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,944,302. Additionally, the Examiner has rejected claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Loc et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,944,302.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 4 and 13 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Although the applicants disagree with the Examiner's characterization of the relied upon reference and are of the view that all pending claims are patentable over that reference, the applicants have amended claims 1 and 11 and have cancelled claims 4 and 13, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, in order to advance this important case to allowance. In view thereof, the applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1 through 3, 5 through 6, 8, 10 through 12, 14, 15, 17 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Loc et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,944,302, and the rejection of claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Loc et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,944,302, be removed.


The Examiner has indicated that claims 19 through 26 are allowed.

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In conclusion, based upon the above, it is respectfully submitted that each of applicants' claims currently pending in the present application are in condition for allowance. Prompt notification of allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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